

## Meeting Notes

**Work Group members in attendance:** FDPIR Program Staff: Joe VanAlstine (NAFDPIR President); Jaime Prouty (NAFDPIR Treasurer); Judy Fisch (NAFDPIR Parliamentarian); Roxanna Newsom (SWR VP Proxy), Connie Martinez (SWR); Carmen Robertson (NAFDPIR SWR Nutritionist); Lorraine Davis (WR), Desiree Jackson (NAFDPIR WR Nutritionist); Mary Greene-Trottier (MPR VP), Charles “Red” Gates (MPR), Jana Millner (NAFDPIR MPR Nutritionist); Gloria Goodwin (MWR); Peggi Bazant (NAFDPIR MWR Nutritionist Proxy); Samia Hamdan (FNS MWRO); Jessica Creed-Capsel (FNS MPRO); Melissa Baker (FNS WRO); David Tuckwiller (AMS); Julie Skolmowski (Chief, NSAB, FDD), Matthew Martin (FDD), and Stephanie Cooks (FNS).

**Work Group members not at the meeting:** Susie Roy (MWR VP); Marisa Mitchell (NAFDPIR Secretary); vacant (WR VP); Lou Hankins (FNS SWRO).

**Visitors:** Kathryn Wilson (FNCS Deputy Under Secretary); Angie Tagtow (CNPP, Executive Director); Diane Kriviski (SNAS Deputy Administrator); Laura Castro (Director, FDD); Janice Fitzgerald (Chief HH Ops, FDD); Dana Rasmussen (Chief, Policy, FDD); Dennis Sullivan (Chief, Technology, FDD); Kathleen Staley (Chief, PIMB, FDD); (CNPP); Sasha Bard (CNPP); Hazel Hiza (CNPP); Akua White (FDD); Barbara Lopez (FDD); Erica Antonson (FDD).

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Workgroup members introduced themselves and were welcomed to FNS by Kathryn Wilson, Deputy Under Secretary, Food Nutrition and Consumer Services and Diane Kriviski, Deputy Administrator, Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs. Deputy Under Secretary Wilson highlighted the procurement of traditional foods in FY 2015 and the Workgroup’s significant contributions to improve the FDPIR food package.
- II. **FDPIR Updates:** The Workgroup received updates on current FDPIR policy and regulations, participation trends, and funding. In addition, the group also received updates on the AIS Consolidation Initiative and FDD’s new Program Integrity and Monitoring Branch. Handouts for these workgroup sessions are included as attachments to the meeting notes.
- III. **Update on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2015:** The Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) provided an update on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs) 2015, consumer tools and messaging, and the Healthy Eating Index 2005 and 2010. Public release of the new DGAs 2015 is expected in January 2016.
- IV. **USDA Vendor Application and Outreach:** AMS provided an overview of the USDA vendor application and outreach process. Workgroup members were encouraged to share USDA staff contact information with vendors who may be interested in becoming approved USDA vendors. The slide deck for this presentation is attached to the meeting notes.
- V. **FDPIR Study Updates and Special Projects Overview:**
  - a. **FDPIR Vendor Pilot** – The draft report for the FDPIR Vendor Pilot study has been reviewed by FNS and was shared with pilot ITOs and the NAFDPIR Board.
  - b. **The Study of FDPIR** - FNS contracted with the Urban Institute in Washington, DC, to conduct a national characteristic study of FDPIR and its participants. The report will cover topic areas such as providing a demographic profile of FDPIR households, key aspects of operations, nutrition education, and the approaches used

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to distribute food packages. Data collection has concluded and a draft report has been provided to FNS' Office of Policy Support (research division at FNS) by the Urban Institute to review. Currently, the Office of Policy Support has a tentative date of the week of January 11, 2016 to share the draft report with the NAFDPIR Board and the participating study Tribes, including their respective Institutional Review Boards (IRBs).

- c. Feasibility of Tribal Administration of Nutrition Assistance Programs Study - FNS awarded a contract to IMPAQ International, LLC, and to Bowman Performance Consulting, a Native American subcontractor from Wisconsin to conduct the Feasibility of Tribal Administration of Nutrition Assistance Programs. This study is required by the 2014 Farm Bill and researches Tribes' interest in administering FNS programs, specifically: the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Summer Food Service Program, and the Supplemental Assistance Nutrition Program (SNAP). The study will also review the feasibility of ITO administration, including any legislative or regulatory adjustments that may be needed. The Office of Policy Support is currently reviewing the final report and expects its release February 2016 (tentative). FNS plans to brief the Tribes on the study findings before the report is submitted to Congress.
- d. FDPIR Nutrition Paraprofessional Assessment Project – The Food Distribution Division obtained a contractor to create and deliver an assessment project that will document the nutrition paraprofessional training needs of FDPIR Staff. The goal of the assessment is to form the basis of a nutrition paraprofessional training program that FDPIR ITO staff could use to educate program participants, if there is interest.
- e. Food Distribution Program Nutrition Education (FDPNE) Grants 2015 & 2016 - In FY 2015, twenty grantees received FDPNE Grant funding. The total grant funding allocated was \$995,327. Progress reports from grantees are due in January 2016. In FY 2016, \$998,000 is expected to be available for FDPNE Grants. FNS will provide more information on the FY 2016 FDPNE Grants process as information is available.
- f. FDPIR HEI Review – The HEI scores for FD programs are being reviewed. This review will include both HEI 2005 scores and HEI 2010 scores. The FDPIR HEI 2010 score for refined grains as delivered is expected to be lower, resulting in a lower HEI 2010 score overall. This is due to a high participant take rate of refined grains.
- g. Seneca Nation Shell Egg Pilot – The Seneca Nation shell egg pilot continues to be successful. Nationwide, shell eggs are more available this year in the commercial market. FNS and DoD plan to resume shell egg pilot discussions to determine if the pilot can be expanded.

**VI. Overview of Products Offered to USDA Food Distribution Programs:** The Workgroup reviewed a list of products currently being offered to household and school food distribution programs. The group expressed interest in USDA researching these items to determine product cost and availability in household pack sizes. A list of the items for further research is attached to the meeting minutes.

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**Whole Grain Additions to the FDPIR Food Package** - The Workgroup discussed the changes in how the HEI 2005 and HEI 2010 scores are calculated and the importance of whole grain foods in maintaining a higher HEI 2010 score. The group taste-tested whole grain tortillas and whole grain shredded wheat to determine their potential acceptability for the FDPIR food package. In an effort to offer healthier options in the food package, the group voted to add a 1 lb. package of the 8" whole grain tortillas to the crackers category. The group also voted to replace the current Corn and Rice Biscuits cereal in the FDPIR food package with the whole grain shredded wheat cereal. The voting results for both products are attached to the meeting minutes.

**Beef Stew Samples** - The workgroup taste-tested three samples of beef stew. The beef stew samples included the current beef stew product offered to FDPIR and two other products with reduced sodium. Average taste test results for each of the beef stew samples scored in the "satisfactory" range for appearance, taste, texture, and overall satisfaction. USDA will review the results of the taste test with the vendor for further action.

**VII. FDPIR Food Package Review Nutrition and Health Expert Subcommittee Working**

**Lunch** – The subcommittee met to discuss nutrition work planning for the FY 2016 year and share best practices in their respective tribal communities. Work planning items to pursue include: (1) Review the process USDA uses to analyze the nutritional composition of the FDPIR food package; (2) Review how changes to the food package affect the overall HEI score; (3) Explore ways to incorporate new DGA 2015 messages/resources to maximize the benefits of the FDPIR food package (Regional calendars, FDPIR fact sheets, nutrition education resources, etc.). The subcommittee will meet in February 2016 to begin implementing their FY 2016 work plan. **ACTION ITEM:** FNS will send a meeting request to subcommittee members for the next meeting in February.

**VIII. FY 2015 and 2016 FDPIR Food Package Work Planning** –The workgroup recapped FDPIR accomplishments for FY 2015. These accomplishments include the Seneca Nation shell egg pilot, as well as procurement of frozen pork chops, bison, blue cornmeal, and lemons for the food package. Programs also received macaroni in 1 lb. boxes, replacing the bagged macaroni. New pop-up banners were also purchased for program sites to enhance FDPIR outreach and marketing in tribal communities.

- a. **FDPIR Food Package and Product Specifications** - The workgroup revisited the food package wishlist and identified products for further research. These products include Tanka bars, and frozen whole grain waffles or pancakes. **ACTION ITEM:** USDA will provide an update on market availability for these items at the next workgroup meeting.
- b. **Product Packaging for Dried Fruit/Fruit & Nut Mix** – USDA has coordinated with dried fruit vendors to change the packaging requirements for FDPIR dried fruit/fruit& nut mix products. Vendors will provide colorful package labels for these products beginning in spring 2016.
- c. **FY 2016 Traditional Foods Priorities** – The workgroup recapped traditional food funding allocations for FY 2015 and decided on the following traditional food procurement priorities using the \$5 million in traditional food funding for FY 2016:

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(1) Bison - \$3 million and (2) Wild rice and frozen Pacific salmon filets - \$2 million. The voting results for these priorities are attached to the meeting minutes. **ACTION ITEM:** FNS will conduct further market research to identify availability of these items for FY 2016 procurement and update the workgroup at the next meeting.

**IX. Other Business**

- a. **United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) Extension Resources** – Jana Millner shared a set of UTTC- developed recipe cards with the workgroup. The recipes highlighted traditional foods and healthy food choices.
- b. **Midwest Regional Nutrition Advisory Committee 2016 Calendar and Nutrition Guide:** Samia Hamdan shared the Midwest Nutrition Advisory Council's new calendar and nutrition guide, *Live, Love, Learn Nutrition*. The calendar and guide is updated and published using FDPNE funding and distributed to Midwest Region food distribution program participants. It highlights healthy tips and recipes and includes colorful images and photos throughout.
- c. **Traditional and Local Foods Demonstration Project Provision** - A workgroup member requested additional information on the *Traditional and Local Foods Demonstration Project* provision from the 2014 Farm Bill. **ACTION ITEM:** The provision is included as an attachment to the meeting minutes.
- d. **Fall 2016 FDPIR Food Package Review Face-to-Face Meeting** – Charles “Red” Gates and Mary Greene-Trottier offered to host the fall 2016 Workgroup meeting in the Mountain Plains Region at the Standing Rock Sioux Food Distribution Program site.
- e. **Next FDPIR Food Package Review Workgroup Call:** The next workgroup call will be scheduled for February 2016. **ACTION ITEM:** FNS will send out a meeting request to all members.

**X. Meeting Adjourned**